

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1479 – SB 1504

January 21, 2018

SUMMARY OF BILL: Expands the authorization of general sessions and criminal court judges across the state, rather than in Knox County only, to implement programs of community service in lieu of full payment of court costs and litigation taxes for indigent defendants.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-25-123(b), the presiding judge of a general sessions court may currently waive the court costs and litigation tax that is to be paid pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 67-4-602 through 67-4-606 for any indigent criminal defendant.
- Authorizing judges to refer indigent defendants to community service will not affect the number of people identified as indigent or reduce the amount of litigation tax or court costs collected. Therefore, any impact on such revenue to the state or county court systems is estimated to be not significant.
- The implementation of any community service program for indigent defendants is permissive. If any such program is implemented, it will be accomplished within the existing general session or criminal court resources.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee".

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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